AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE MORATORIUM ON THE APPROVAL OF GROUND-MOUNTED AND POLE-MOUNTED SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS IN RESIDENTIAL ZONES

WHEREAS the Town Council of West Hartford adopted an ordinance on October 28, 2014 which permits the installation of certain alternative energy systems within the Town; and

WHEREAS ground-mounted and pole-mounted solar energy systems are permitted as accessory uses in residential zones pursuant to said ordinance, subject to certain limitations; and

WHEREAS concerns have been raised about whether the limitations contained in said ordinance are sufficient to protect neighboring property owners; and

WHEREAS the Town Council adopted a six-month moratorium on the approval of ground-mounted and pole-mounted solar energy systems on January 26, 2016; and

WHEREAS the administration wishes to propose further restrictions on ground-mounted and pole-mounted solar energy systems to properly balance the interests of all property owners within the Town; and

WHEREAS the Town Council's meeting schedule during the months of July and August precludes the adoption of further restrictions before the expiration of the current moratorium period

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF WEST HARTFORD that subsection 177-37.3E of the West Hartford Code of Ordinances is hereby repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

E. Moratorium:

Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the installation of ground-mounted or pole mounted solar energy systems shall not be a permitted use in any residential zone until the Town Council, acting as the Town's zoning authority, adopts revisions to the zoning ordinances regulating such systems or [for six (6) months following the effective date of this ordinance]until October 31, 2016, whichever is sooner.

VAN WINKLE (6/14/16)	
Proposed new language is underlined.	Deleted language is bracketed.
Approved as to form and legality.	
Corporation Counsel	